

TED POE
TEXAS
2ND DISTRICT



FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade Subcommittee - Chairman
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus - Chairman
P.O.R.T.S. Caucus - Co-Chairman

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4302

November 30, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
House Speaker
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi,

As you may know, many members of Congress have significant concerns about the changes to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, which are set to go into effect on December 1, 2016. We believe that these rule changes will significantly expand the ability of the government to conduct remote searches of electronic devices, and could be abused in a way that would violate the 4th Amendment of the Constitution and threaten the privacy of all Americans.

Although these changes have been billed as minor and administrative in nature, we believe that they result in a substantive change to the scope of warrants and the safe guards of the current process, and deserve Congressional review before going into effect. To this date, there has not yet been an oversight hearing in either the House or the Senate to consider all of the implications of these changes. We believe that any rule change that would allow the search of millions of targets with a single warrant, the vast majority of which are likely to be innocent victims of the crime being investigated, should be given the highest level of scrutiny before enactment.

Due to these significant concerns expressed by many in Congress, we urge you to immediately pass language that would delay the enactment of the changes to Rule 41 for at least three months. This delay will allow the relevant committees of jurisdiction in the House to have adequate time to review the proposed changes to Rule 41, to ensure that the changes are in the best interests of the American public and that the 4th Amendment rights of all Americans are protected.

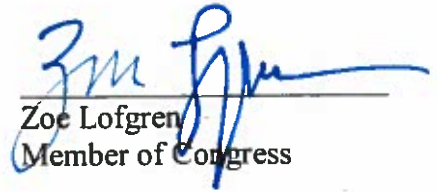
Sincerely,

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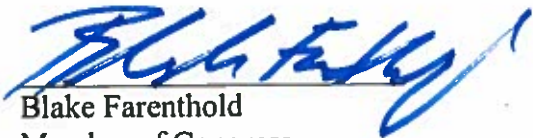
WASHINGTON OFFICE
2412 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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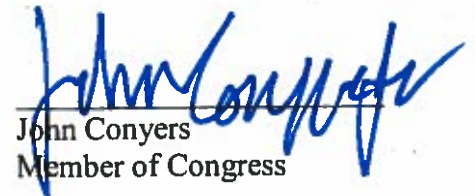
Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



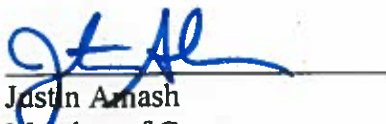
Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



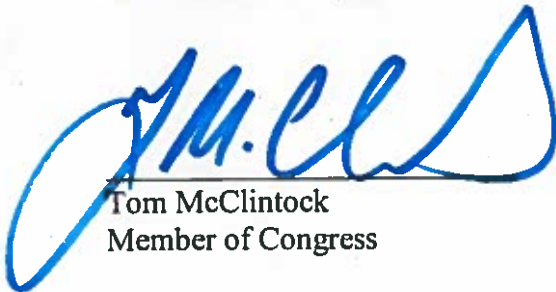
Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Justin Amash
Member of Congress



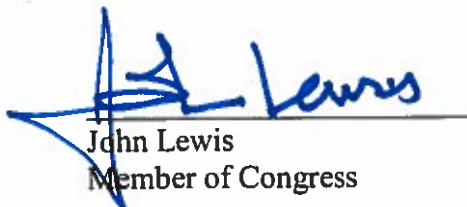
Raul Labrador
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
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Suzan DelBene
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